

**Vermont Board of Health  
Communication with  
Vermont State Hospital  
E-mail transmission,  
Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 3:59 p.m.**

Good Afternoon

Attached is a copy of the Board of Health's VSH Problem list as referenced in the conditions for licensure (also attached). Hard copy to follow.

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Secretary, State Board of Health  
(802) 863-7280

[Attachment 1]

**STATE OF VERMONT  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL (VSH)  
PROBLEM LIST**

**\*. Problem #1: VSH will comply in full with the State of Vermont Contract for Services, Attachment A, Specifications of Work to be Performed:** To do so VSH will describe the steps that have been, are being and/or will be taken to comply with each service to be provided by the State and/or Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC, the Contractor) either alone or in combination to VSH or to VSH in-patients or out-patients as included in the State of Vermont Contract for Services (Contract): Attachment A; Specifications of Work to be Performed, pages 3-8, 10 and 11, and indicate the date of completion or the expected date of completion for that service.

**\*. Problem #2: VSH will correct in full previously identified as well as currently existing safety concerns:** To do so VSH will provide the BOH with a plan of correction and a timeframe addressing each safety concern that is in existence at the time this problem list is submitted to VSH, including but not limited to any hazard mentioned in any of the following reports: Vaureen O'Keefe-Domaleski, Pomerantz, Ockert, Department of Justice at its exit interview. Such corrective steps should include:

- \*. Elimination of all exposed pipes and other suicide hazards under sinks, around toilets, doors and shower heads, and inside toilet stalls and other structures in patient and community bathrooms in Brooks 1 and 2 and in the Rehab Unit. This includes but is not limited to elimination of cracks between vertical support posts to which rope or string could be wedged or tied, and toilet stall doors, and U-shaped metal door handles inside the toilet stall doors to which rope or string could be tied;

- \*. Increasing the height of half walls to full walls in the bathroom stall of Brooks 2;

- \* Removing doors and hinges in bathroom stalls and replacing with non-hazardous privacy providers;

- \*. Boxing in the flush valves on toilets and urinals in all bathrooms to which patients have access;
  - \*. Correction of the following safety risks: On the Brooks 1 unit: stationary grab bars, non-recessed, non-flush-mounted hard attached fixtures, non-flush-mounted water controls, ceiling and wall grates, door handles and accessories in the tub room. On the Brooks 2 unit: grab bars, non-recessed, non-flush-mounted, hard-attached fixtures, non-flush-mounted water controls. In the Brooks 2 tub room: hinges on the entry door, depth of tub, grab bars on the tub, grates and vents made accessible via furniture;
  - \*. Providing continuous 24-hour, effective monitoring of the both the men's and the women's bathrooms on Brooks 2 unit;
  - \*. Correction of all safety hazards identified by DOJ to VSH administrators at the exit interview in 2004.
- \*. VSH will work toward future accreditation by CMS, JCAHO or similar standards:** To do so VSH will state how VSH is working toward establishing or being accountable to a standard such as CMS or JCAHO.
- \*. VSH will continue to comply with licensing requirements of 18 VSA section 1905, subsections 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 sub-sub sections A through E.**

**[Attachment 2]**

Vermont State Hospital (VSH)

Temporary license (expires 6/30/06) subject to the following conditions:

1. VSH will send the Board biweekly reports of the status of their working with the U.S. Department of Justice.
2. A "problem list" will be compiled by the Board based on comments provided to the Board at the December 14 hearing. The list will be provided to Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC) and the Division of Mental Health who shall respond to each item with a plan of correction and a timeframe. The problem list response and timeline will be updated monthly, or more frequently as needed. The problem list will also include a statement that VSH will work toward establishing or being accountable to a standard such as CMS and JCAHO.